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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7855
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAA/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 8616
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2002
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RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1318
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USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q NORTH KOREA - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Monday morning's nationwide Nihon Keizai poll showed 68 percent support for the cabinet led by Prime Minister Abe.

1. "North Korean Nuclear Test: NPT Heading Toward Collapse" An editorial in the top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri commented (10/29): "The DPRK's nuclear test could lead to a collapse of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) framework, which aims to prevent the emergence of further nuclear weapons states. Fears of this happening are growing given the international community's inability to stop North Korea from producing nuclear arms. If Iran, which is continuing to enrich uranium, follows the path of North Korea, there could be a nuclear domino effect in the Middle East that would encompass countries like Egypt and Saudi Arabia. There is also an increasing danger that nuclear weapons will find their way into the hands of terrorists. The collapse of the NPT framework would seriously threaten the peace and security of the entire world, including, of course, Japan.... Japan must make every effort to prevent North Korea from arming itself with nuclear weapons. The situation, however, is becoming more difficult."

SCHIEFFER